

## Message Text

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42

ACTION OES-02

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-06 IO-03 PM-03 L-01 INR-05

CIAE-00 EB-03 MC-01 RSC-01 DODE-00 /040 W

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P R 151434Z JAN 75

FM USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5376

INFO AEC GERMANTOWN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L IAEA VIENNA 0314

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, IAEA, LY

SUBJECT: LIBYAN RESEARCH REACTOR

REF: (A) STATE 004961

(B) IAEA VIENNA 0109

1. MISSION HAS RECEIVED TWO LETTERS FROM IAEA (POLLIART, DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF NUCLEAR POWER AND REACTORS) CONFIRMING REQUEST FROM GOVT OF LIBYA FOR THE TRANSFER FROM THE U.S. OF A TRIGA MARK III REACTOR TOGETHER WITH NUCLEAR FUEL AND OTHER SPECIAL FISSIONABLE MATERIAL. LETTERS FURTHER EXPRESS THE DESIRE OF LIBYAN AUTHORITIES THAT THEIR REQUEST BE SUBMITTED TO IAEA BOARD OF GOVERNORS AT FEBRUARY 25 SESSION. AGENCY, IN RESPONSE TO LIBYAN REQUEST, WISHES RECEIVE EARLIEST POSSIBLE CONFIRMATION FROM USG OF OUR WILLINGNESS TO TRANSFER THE REACTOR AND THE SPECIAL FISSIONABLE MATERIAL.

2. WE HAVE NO INDICATIONS LIBYANS INTEND EITHER TO WITHDRAW APPLICATION TO IAEA FOR PROJECT AND SUPPLY AGREEMENTS OR TO ASK FOR POSTPONEMENT TO A LATER BOARD MEETING. NEITHER CAN AGENCY ON ITS  
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OWN DENY LIBYAN REQUEST IN ABSENCE OF OFFICIAL

COMMUNICATIONS FROM USG INDICATING OUR INABILITY OR UNWILLINGNESS TO SUPPLY REACTOR AND FUEL. MISSION HAS INFORMALLY ADVISED A FEW APPROPRIATE KEY SECRETARIAT STAFF MEMBERS OF OUR CONCERNS RE THE LIBYAN SALE BUT THERE IS NO ACTION SECRETARIAT CAN TAKE TO BURY THE MATTER IN THE ABSENCE OF AN OFFICIAL USG TURN-DOWN.

3. AS OUR PREVIOUS REPORTING HAS INDICATED, LIBYANS ARE AWARE THAT SOMETHING IS AMISS AND THEY SEEM TO WISH TO FORCE USG INTO AN OPEN DISCLOSURE THAT WE WILL NOT GRANT EXPORT LICENSE. WE COULD BE MISJUDGING LIBYAN INTENTIONS BUT AT THE MOMENT AVAILBLE EVIDENCE POINTS TO THIS CONCLUSION. WHILE LIBYA IS NOT CURRENTLY A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS IT COULD CLEARLY FIND A SPOKESMAN (IRAQ, FOR EXAMPLE) TO TELL THE STORY TO THE BOARD AND PUT USG IN AN UNFAVORABLE LIGHT. EVEN IF THEY ELECT TO AVOID A BOARD DEBATE, THE STORY WOULD CERTAINLY SPREAD QUICKLY IN VIENNA, AND BE USED TO DISCREDIT USG AS A RELIABLE SUPPLIER OF NUCLEAR EXPORTS TO A COUNTRY WHICH WAS FULLY PREPARED TO ACCEPT THE APPLICATION OF INTERNATIONAL SAFEGUARDS ON THE EXPORTED MATERIAL AND EQUIPMENT.

4. WE SEE ONLY TWO POSSIBLE COURSES OF ACTION AT THE MOMENT: (1) GENERAL ATOMIC SHOULD MAKE ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO GET LIBYANS TO WITHDRAW APPLICATION TO IAEA FOR PROJECT AGREEMENT, (2) MISSION INFORM AGENCY BY LETTER THAT WE UNABLE RESPOND TO LIBYAN REQUEST AT THIS TIME AND KEEP STALLING UNTIL AT LEAST MID-FEBRUARY BY WHICH TIME IT WOULD BE TOO LATE TO PRESENT AGREEMENT TO FEBRUARY BOARD. DELAYING TACTICS WOULD AT LEAST AVOID A POSSIBLY DAMAGING BOARD DEBATE AND ABOVE ALL THE PLACING OF THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT ON THE BOARD AGENDA. DEPT WOULD THEN HAVE TIME TO MAKE IT CLEAR TO LIBYANS THAT THE MATTER WAS CLOSED AS FAR AS THE US IS CONCERNED. WE RECOMMEND THE STALLING TACTIC UNLESS THE DEPARTMENT HAS OTHER SUGGESTIONS.

5. UNTIL REPLY RECEIVED THIS MESSAGE, WE WILL RESPOND  
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TO ANY INQUIRIES BY SAYING THAT WE HAVE FORWARDED REQUEST TO WASHINGTON FOR CONSIDERATION.

6. TEXT OF LETTERS TRANSMITTED SEPTTEL. PORTER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SALES, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), NUCLEAR REACTORS, NUCLEAR FUELS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 JAN 1975  
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**Film Number:** D750015-0754  
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